

17th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you had a well-deserved break over Easter and that the children are looking forward to being back at school for Term 5!

We start a new topic this term and this will continue into Term 6. We will be learning about "South America", looking closely at the Amazon River and Rainforest. We will be looking in particular at deforestation and the children will be encouraged to see both sides of the argument when writing a balanced argument. We will learn about rivers and also look at the geography of South America, comparing it to that of the UK. To enhance our learning, we will be reading "The Explorers" by Katherine Rundell. The Observer describes this as "A gripping story of survival and the tenacity of the human spirit..." It is a story which illustrates the resilience and resourcefulness of children, encouraging children to take informed risks, find their own boundaries and look for meaning in their lives. We hope the children will enjoy this stirring and motivational story as well as using it to inspire their writing over the two terms.

In RE we are asking the question "Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?" In order to answer this, we will look at both Christianity and Islam, looking at inspirational buildings and architecture as well as charity work carried out by charities affiliated to both religions.

In Science, our theme is "Animals, including Humans". As part of this, we will be looking at how humans develop to old age – starting by looking at how babies grow and develop, then what changes occur during puberty and moving on through adulthood to old age. We will also be looking at gestation periods of different animals.

Year 6 SATs –Year 6 will be completing their SATs during the week beginning 8th May. These are national tests taken by all children in Year 6 in Maths, Reading and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Their writing completed in the classroom will also be assessed separately. During SATs week, Year 5 will join Mr Martin and their Year 5 peers in Hazel Class; Mr Martin is planning a special week of activities for them to complete together, which I am sure they will enjoy. When Year 6 are not doing their tests, they will have their lessons as usual with myself and Mrs Heath.

Practical Information:

PE Days – Our PE days are **Monday** and **Thursday**. On **Monday**, children should come to school wearing their PE kit - house T-shirt, plain joggers or shorts and a plain sweatshirt for outdoor PE lessons whilst the weather is cooler. On **Thursday**, we also have **Forest School** on **Thursday afternoon**. All the class will be going outside during these sessions, Mr Chidwick, Mrs Heath and I will be with them and we will continue to start our session with **OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities)** before our Forest School activities and outdoor activities (such as looking after our lovely grounds, our outdoor area and the Spiritual Garden). Please ensure the children have appropriate clothing for Forest School as well as a coat and/or waterproof coat and their wellies. **They will do OAA activities in their Forest School kit.**

Reading - Reading books are sent home every day and they need to be brought to school, with your child's Reading Record, signed, each day. Please do listen to your child read as much as you can, this really helps them to develop

their reading skills. Please also use the information in the Reading Record to assist with reading at home, as well as spellings.

SATS Companion and Times Table Rock Stars – the children all have log-ins for these programmes and I would encourage them to use them! They are excellent for reinforcing what we have been learning at school and giving the children chance to practise a wide variety of concepts. SATS Companion covers Maths and English, the children can choose which areas they feel they would like to practise further and I will also be regularly setting work for them to complete. They can gain rewards for completing work on SATS Companion and it a valuable tool to use in the lead up to SATs for Year 6, but also consolidating learning in Year 5. TTRS is a fantastic programme for developing fluency in times tables, covering multiplication and division facts – and gives the children chance to compete against each other!

Mrs Heath will continue to work with us as our teaching assistant. We are all looking forward to a great summer term with you and your children. If you need to contact us, please do so via the school office. Thank you!

Regards

Miss R Cooper and Mrs C Heath

